

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 044638
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY: S/S:PSEBASTIAN

APPROVED BY: S/S-MR SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 044638

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT AMMAN 1207 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 28 FEB

QTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 1207

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, JO, US

SUBJECT: KING'S RSACTION TO CONTINUING PRESS ATTACKS

1. THIS EVENING I RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM CROWN PRINCE
HUSSAN ASKING ME TO MEET HIM IMMEDIATELY IN PRIME MINISTER'S
OFFICE.

2. WHEN I ARRIVED HE SAW ME AT ONCE. ALSO PRESENT WERE PRIME
MINISTER AND COURT CHIEF SHARAF.

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3. CROWN PRINCE EXPLAINED THAT KING (IN LONDON) HAD JUST READ
NEWSWEEK FEBRUARY 28 EDITION REPORT ON HIMSELF TO WHICH HE
REACTED NEGATIVELY TO PUT IT POLITELY.
KING HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HASSAN SEVERAL TIMES
BY TELEPHONE FROM LONDON AND HAD DICTATED PERSONAL MESSAGE
TO THE PRESIDENT STATING THAT NOW WAS CLEARLY NOT A

PROFITIOUS TIME FOR TIO TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES. HASSAN HAD
GOTTEN KING TO RECONSIDER AND TOLD HIM THAT HE WOULD CALL ME
IN TO RELAY KING'S DEEP UNHAPPYNESS WITH CONTINUING US PRESS
ATTACKS ON HIM TO YOU AND THE PRESIDENT.

4. HASSAN MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: KING CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY
HE IS BEING MADE TO BEAR THE BRUNT OF ALL OF THE PERSONAL ATTACKS,
DEMEANING TO HIS DIGNITY AND PRIDE; HE THOUGHT THAT THE
SECRETARY'S STATEMENT AFTER HIS VISIT HERE WOULD HAVE SET THIS
TO REST; HE HOPES THE ADMINISTRATION APPRECIATES THE POSITION
THIS PUTS HIM IN WITH HIS OWN PEOPLE AND IN THE ARAB WORLD;
HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY, IF ADMINISTRATION IS NOT LEAKING
THIS MATERIAL, IT CONTINUES TO BE PUBLISHED AND EMBELLISHED
IN US PRESS. IN SUM, KING DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY HE APPEARS
TO BE THE "POINT" MAN ON THIS ISSUE.

5. I TOLD HASSAN THAT I WOULD OF COURSE COMMUNICATE
KING'S CONCERN TO WASHINGTON. THE POSITION WHICH THE PRESIDENT
AND THE SECRETARY CONTINUE TO MAKE CLEAR -- THAT THERE ARE NO
ILLEGALITIES OR IMPROPRIETIES IN CONNECTION WITH THIS MATTER
AFTER PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW OF THE SITUATION -- IS OUR ONLY
PUBLIC POSITION ON THE SUBJECT ASIDE FROM REFUTING FURTHER
COMMENT, AND THAT I PERSONALLY BELIEVED THAT SUCH
A POSITION WAS EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO HIS MAJESTY. HASSAN KNOWS
WE DO NOT CONTROL OUR PRESS.

6. HASSAN SAID HE APPRECIATED WHAT I HAD TOLD HIM AND THAT HE
PERSONALLY HOPED THAT THIS WOULD BE THE LAST CHAPTER IN THE STORIES
ON HIS BROTHER.

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7. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY THE KING WHO HAS BEEN IN LONDON FOR THE LAST
SIX DAYS HAD NOT UNTIL TODAY BEEN MADE AWARE OF LAST WEEK'S
NEWSWEEK REPORT AND POSSIBLY OTHERS IN SIMILAR VEIN. IT IS
OF COURSE IRONIC THAT KING SHOULD HAVE CHOSEN NEWSWEEK THIS WEEK
TO MAKE HIS OWN POSITION CLEAR AND I REMINED HASSAN THAT IT WAS
NOT OUR CHOICE. HASSAN ROLLED HIS EYES AND IN
OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO HIS ARCHENEMY
ZAID RIFAI SAID "WE KNOW WHO CHOSE NEWSWEEK". THE STORY HAS
BEEN SUPPRESSED IN JORDAN. THE FACT THAT WE HAVE NOT HAD THIS
STORY FROM DEPARTMENT HAS NOT HELPED IN OUR
EFFORTS TO DO WHAT WE CAN HERE TO DEFUSE THE SITUATION.

8. MY SUGGESTION NOW IS THAT THE PRESIDENT SEND THE KING A
MESSAGE REAFFIRMING OUR PUBLIC POSITION, EXPRESSING HIS REGRETS
ABOUT THE STORIES AND CONTINUING ATTACKS,
MAKE CLEAR THAT WE DID WHAT WE COULD TO DELAY AND DETER (WITHIN
THE CONSTRAINTS OF OUR OWN SYSTEM) PUBLICATION AND TO AVOID
EMBARRASSMENT TO KING, THAT WE VALUE HIGHLY OUR BILATERAL RELA-

TIONS, AND THAT THE PRESIDENT LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING THE KING
IN APRIL. A LITTLE CAREFUL CARE AND FEEDING NOW WILL GO A LONG
WAY AND IS BADLY NEEDED. KING AND HIS ADVISORS ARE JUST A LITTLE
BIT STUNG BY THE PUBLIC REPORTS OF LETTERS TO WILLY BRANDT
AND OTHERS FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THIS MAY BE CONTRIBUTING
TO SOME OF THE PRESENT UNHAPPINESS IN LONDON. THE LETTER SHOULD
BE DELIVERED TO KING BY OUR EMBASSY IN LONDON AT A HIGH LEVEL,
PREFERRABLY AMBASSADOR OR CHARGE. IF YOU THOUGHT THERE WOULD
BE ANY VALUE IN DOING SO (AND I BELIEVE THERE MIGHT BE)
I COULD BE IN LONDON IN 24 HOURS WITHOUT NOTICE TO DELIVER
THE LETTER MYSELF.

9. WE CAN PROVIDE EMBASSY LONDON WITH KING'S ADDRESS AND CONTACT
TELEPHONE NUMBER IN LONDON IF DESIRED.

PICKERING

UNQTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CAT-B, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: S/S:PSEBASTIAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: N770001-0716
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703104/aaaadoks.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Subject: KING'S RSACTION TO CONTINUING PRESS ATTACKS
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, JO, US, (HUSAYN)
To: WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e1f827ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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